

"Pommes des Terres" and "Des Oeufs," what few could be purchased from the French and supplemented by green apples and blackberries gathered from the hillsides, and prepared by each man, while some of the men did not have anything. Four p. m., September 21, 1918, found "M" and "K" Companies waiting at the crossroads near L'Horme for the remainder of the Regiment and orders to move. At 5:30 p. m. began one of the most trying hikes of all, a part of which was made through the beautiful Forest of Mortagne, near the Alsace-Lorraine border. At dark orders were given to fall out twenty minutes for supper—a supper long to be remembered by "K" Company men. No policing up to do after meal, for the relishable feed of "Corn Willie," "Goldfish" and "Hardtacks" was only imaginary. The Company reached Raon L'Étape about 2 a. m., Sunday, September 22, 1918, after a twenty-nine kilometre "Promenade" and were quartered in French stone barracks. At 4 p. m. same date each man had added to his equipment one steel derby and formed ready to hike another ten kilometres up to the front. Arrived at Balthazard 6:30 p. m., a camp on the side of the Vosges Mountains, where "F" Company of the 322nd Infantry was relieved. Here the Company remained for about a week, while Lieutenant Elliot with the third platoon occupied a strong point a few kilometres in advance. Guard duty and patrol work was mostly the order of the day, mixed with a little gas and close order drill. Now and then the reports of the French anti-aircraft guns from the nearby mountain tops would break the monotony of the French artillery wagons on the roads below.